

CLAIMS

1. A wound dressing or implant comprising an enzymatic compound or reagent that is effective in reducing the concentration of lactate in an aqueous solution in contact with said wound dressing.
2. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim wherein the compound or reagent is bound to the surface of a solid wound dressing material.
3. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim wherein said compound or reagent comprises an enzyme.
4. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 3 wherein said enzyme comprises lactate oxidase.
5. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim additionally comprising a compound capable of reducing H_2O_2 to H_2O and molecular oxygen.
6. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 5 wherein said compound capable of reducing H_2O_2 to H_2O and molecular oxygen is a catalase enzyme.
7. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim additionally comprising a chromogenic redox indicator compound or system for indicating the presence of H_2O_2 .
8. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 7 wherein said indicator compound or system comprises a compound selected from the group consisting of 2,2'-azino-bis- (3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) (ABTS); o-phenylenediamine (OPD); 3,3'-5,5'-tetramethylbenzidine (TMB); 0-dianisidine; 5-aminosalicylic acid (5AS); 3,3'-diaminobenzidine (DAB); 3-amino-9-ethylcarbazole (AEC) and 4-chloro-1-naphthol (4CIN).

9. The wound dressing or implant according to claim 7, wherein said indicator system comprises a peroxidase enzyme.

10. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim comprising a
5 solid material with amine, hydroxyl, sulphydryl, carbonyl or active hydrogen reactive
chemistries.

11. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim comprising a
proteinaceous, carbohydrate, plastic or polyurethane material.

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12. The wound dressing or implant according to any preceding claim which is a solid
dressing comprising a solid substrate having the enzymatic compounds or reagents
dispersed thereon or therein.

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13. The wound dressing or implant according to any of claims 1 to 10 which is a
semisolid ointment for topical application comprising a hydrogel selected from cellulose
derivatives, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxymethyl cellulose carboxymethyl cellulose,
hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and hydrogels containing polyacrylic acid and mixtures
thereof.

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14. The wound dressing or implant according to any one of the preceding claims
additionally comprising a medicament.

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15. The wound dressing or implant according to any one of the preceding claims
additionally comprising one or more immunological or other binding partners for one or
more molecules present in a wound fluid.

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16. Use of an enzymatic compound or reagent that is effective to reduce the
concentration of lactate in an aqueous solution for the preparation of a dressing or implant
for the treatment of wounds.